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EST. 1992
#2
ROSE
MEREDITH FINCH • IG GUARA

The Story So Far...

In the land of Ttereve, magical ability is a death sentence. Rose's village is destroyed and her mother killed when Queen Drucilla senses the emergence of a new magical power in her kingdom. Convinced that the queen is behind her loss, Rose embarks on a quest for vengeance and soon encounters a band of rebels with their own agenda.

Meanwhile, Drucilla's reign of oppression and terror has brought her kingdom to the brink of disaster and with the disappearance of the Guardians, her people have lost all hope of salvation.

Will Rose get the help she so desperately needs from her new friends or is she about to trade her quest for vengeance for something even greater?

Find out now in the next exciting chapter of **ROSE.**

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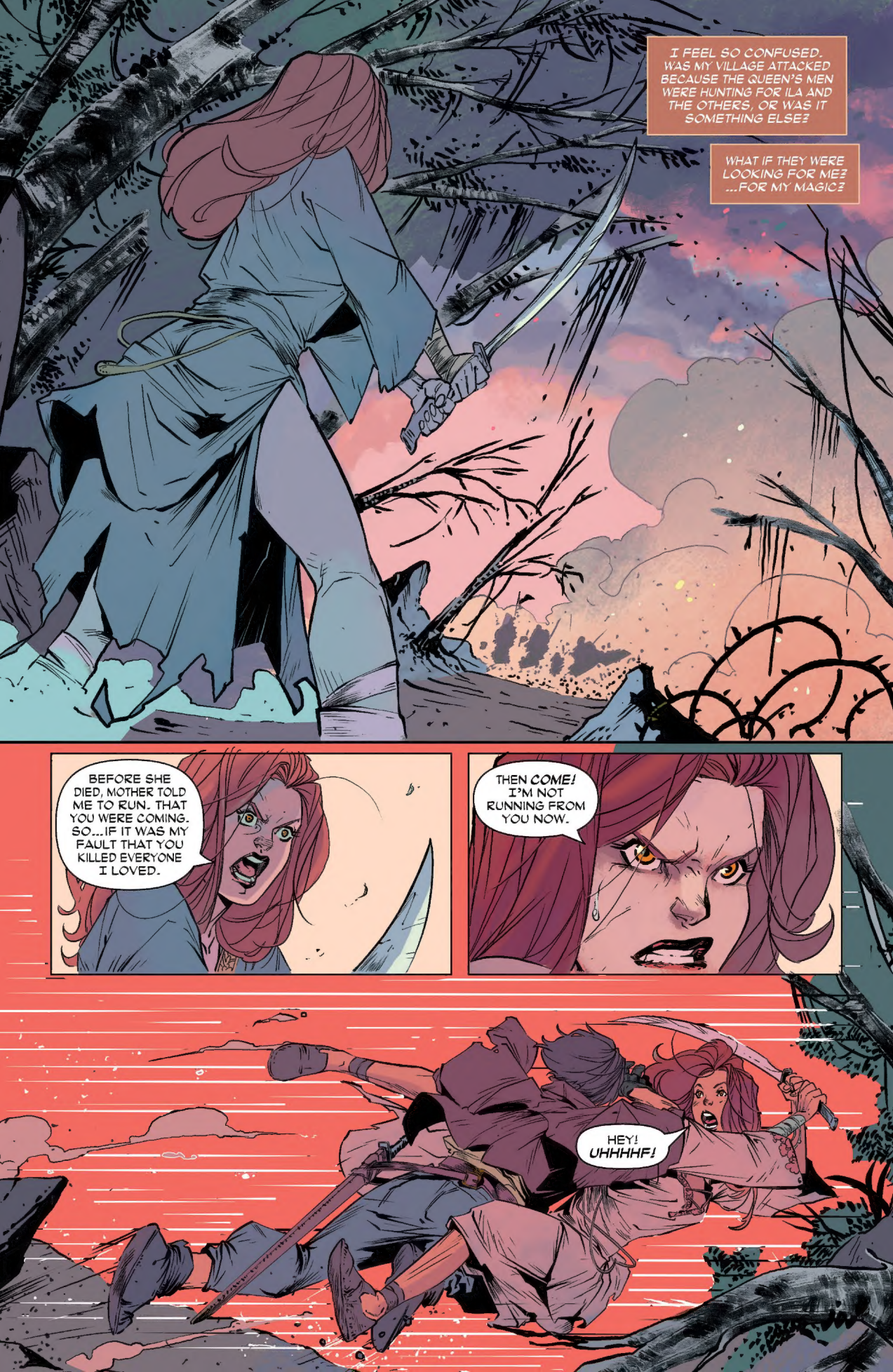
WHAT IS IT, FEL?
QUEEN'S GUARDS 'R ALL OVER THE PLACE. ALMOST GOT CAUGHT BY A PATROL ON THE WAY BACK.
BUT DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?
THERE WAS NOTHIN', ILA. NO SURVIVORS...AN' NOTHIN' LEFT OF ROSE'S VILLAGE, NEITHER...NOTHIN' BUT ASHES.
THAT DOES IT. WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE! NOW!
WE CAN'T LEAVE! BJARKE'S NOT BACK!
BJARKE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF. NOW GRAB THOSE BAGS AND MOVE!
BUT WILL...YOU CAN'T JUST RUN AWAY. THEY NEED TO PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID!
LOOK AROUND YOU, ROSE! WHAT CHANCE DO YOU THINK AN OLD WOMAN, A THIEF AND A WORN-OUT SOLDIER HAVE AGAINST TRAINED MEN?
SOMETIMES KNOWING WHEN TO FIGHT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS KNOWING HOW TO FIGHT. NOW COME. WE MUST GO.
NOW WHERE IS IT? I KNOW I PUT IT IN HERE SOMEWHERE.

ILA, I'M WORRIED... IT...EVERYTHING RESTS ON THE SUCCESS OF THE RENEWAL. WHAT IF WE DON'T MAKE IT IN TIME?
YOU'VE GOTTEN US THIS FAR, WILL. YOU WON'T FAIL US NOW.
DON'T WORRY, ROSE DEAR, WE WON'T LEAVE YOU...
ROSE?!
M' SWORD'S GONE!

THEY DESTROYED MY VILLAGE...
...KILLED MY MOTHER!
IF ILA AND WILL WON'T HELP ME...
...THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT ON MY OWN.


I FEEL SO CONFUSED. WAS MY VILLAGE ATTACKED BECAUSE THE QUEEN'S MEN WERE HUNTING FOR ILA AND THE OTHERS, OR WAS IT SOMETHING ELSE?
WHAT IF THEY WERE LOOKING FOR ME? ...FOR MY MAGIC?
BEFORE SHE DIED, MOTHER TOLD ME TO RUN. THAT YOU WERE COMING. SO...IF IT WAS MY FAULT THAT YOU KILLED EVERYONE I LOVED.
THEN COME! I'M NOT RUNNING FROM YOU NOW.
HEY! UHHHHF!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! GET OFF OF ME!
BE STILL! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH DEATH TODAY, AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET ONE ANGRY LITTLE GIRL GET HERSELF KILLED BECAUSE SHE FEELS GUILTY FOR SURVIVING. NOW STAY DOWN!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I NEED ANSWERS!
WHAT YOU NEED IS TO BE QUIET.
YOUR VILLAGE IS DEAD. THROWING AWAY YOUR LIFE IS NO WAY TO RESPECT THEIR SACRIFICE.
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME ABOUT SACRIFICE? YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT WHO OR WHAT I AM!

I KNOW I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE!
LOOK AT YOU! YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO HOLD A SWORD PROPERLY. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT AT LEAST I WAS WILLING TO TRY!
FORGET IT! YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
FEL, BJARKE, ILA. YOU THINK WE DON'T ALL HAVE AS MUCH CAUSE AS YOU TO WANT REVENGE, LITTLE GIRL?
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT WE KNOW THROWING OUR LIVES AWAY IN A USELESS GESTURE ISN'T THE WAY TO GO ABOUT GETTING IT.
I'M SORRY... I...IT'S JUST THAT...IT HURTS SO MUCH...
HERE.

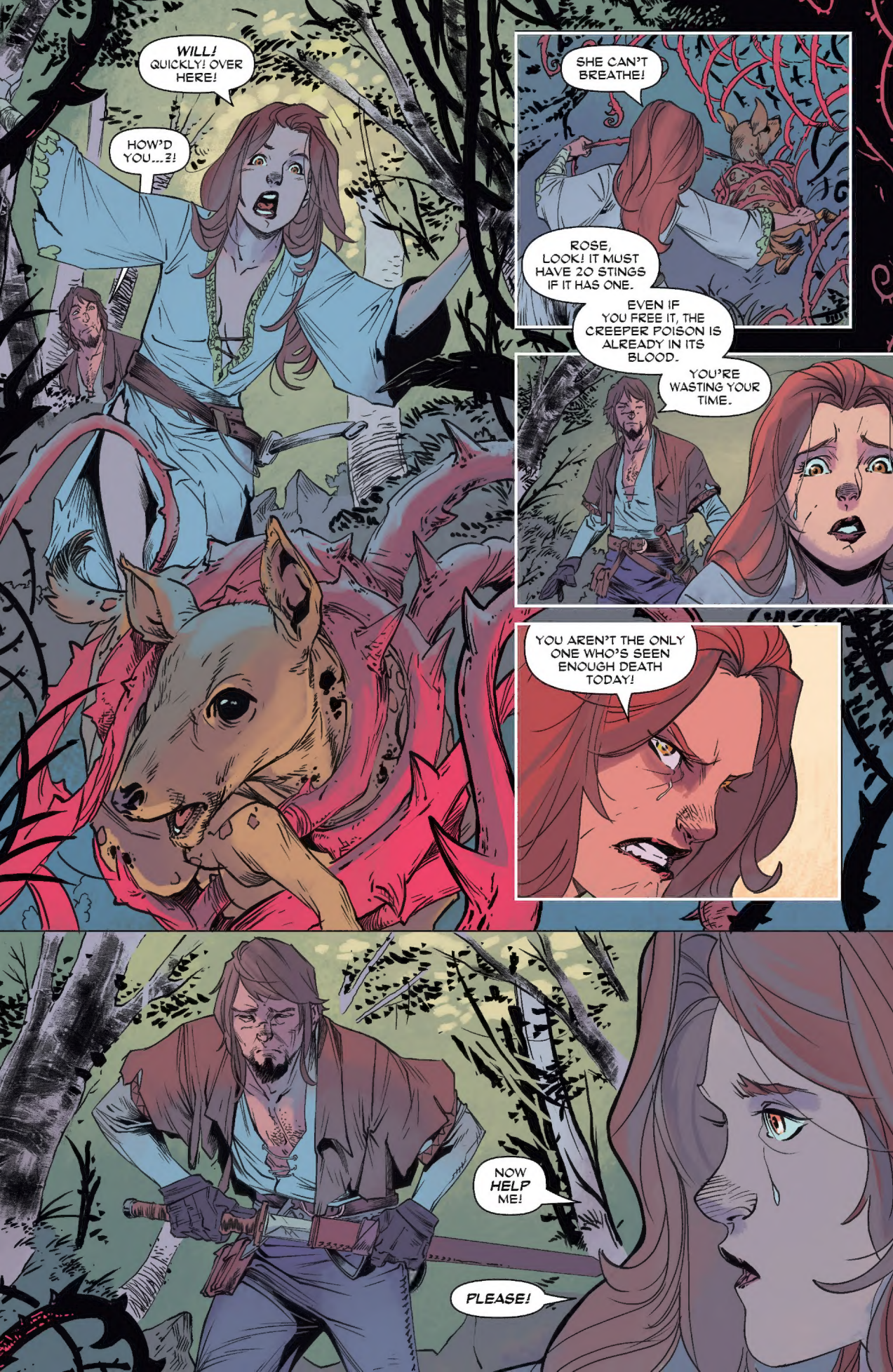
YOU STOLE IT, YOU CARRY IT. YOU WANT TO BE A WARRIOR SO BADLY? START BY UNDERSTANDING JUST HOW HEAVY THE RESPONSIBILITY REALLY IS.

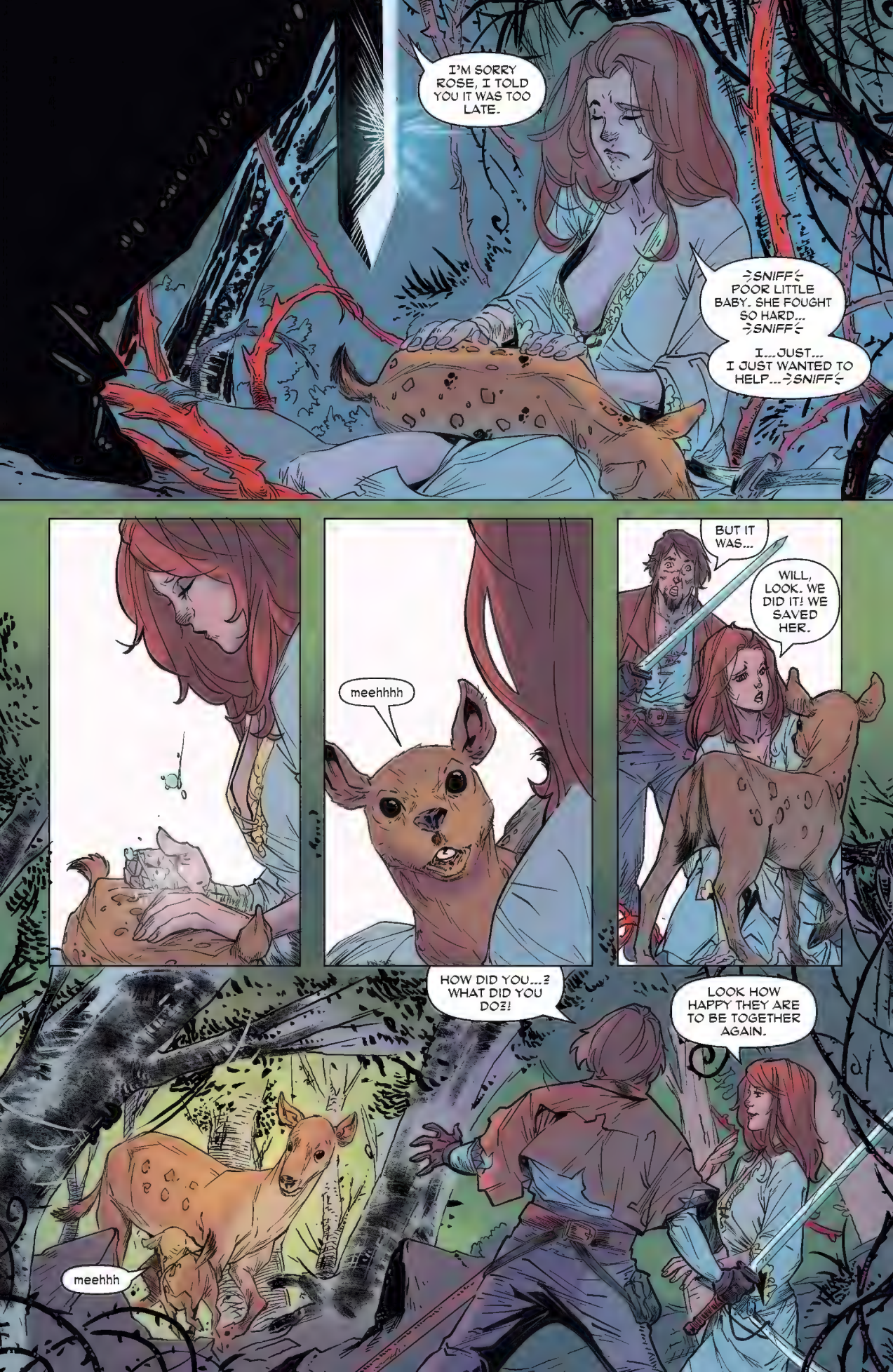
COME ON. ILA AND THE OTHERS ARE WAITING FOR US.

ROSE...?!

...PAIN... TRAPPED...
I...I FEEL...

AH, HELL?! NOW WHAT'S SHE DOING?


WILL! QUICKLY! OVER HERE!
HOW'D YOU...?!
SHE CAN'T BREATHE!
ROSE, LOOK! IT MUST HAVE 20 STINGS IF IT HAS ONE.
EVEN IF YOU FREE IT, THE CREEPER POISON IS ALREADY IN ITS BLOOD.
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SEEN ENOUGH DEATH TODAY!
NOW HELP ME!
PLEASE!

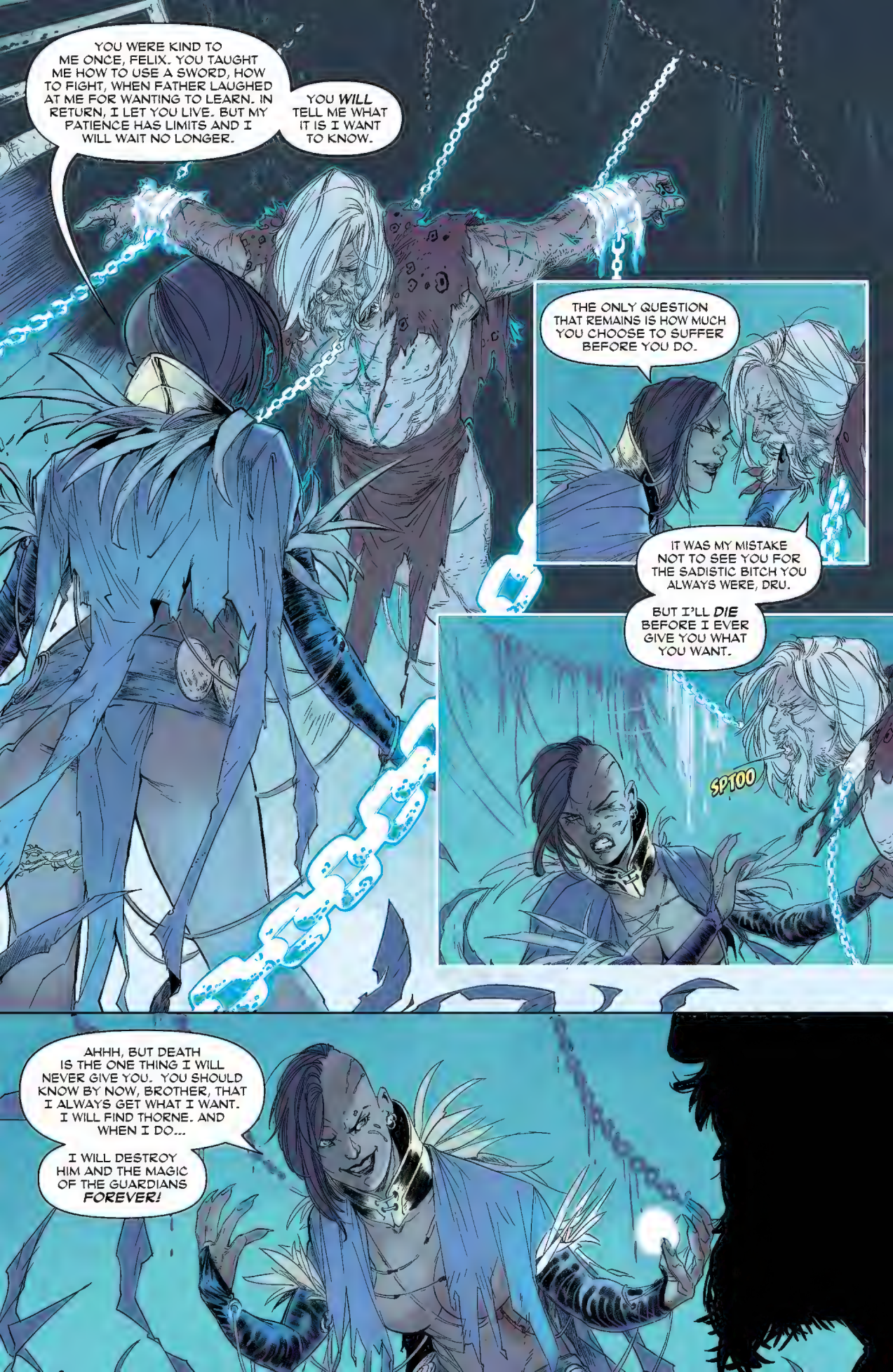

I'M SORRY ROSE, I TOLD YOU IT WAS TOO LATE.
⇒SNIFF⇐ POOR LITTLE BABY. SHE FOUGHT SO HARD... ⇒SNIFF⇐
I...JUST... I JUST WANTED TO HELP...⇒SNIFF⇐
meehhhh
BUT IT WAS...
WILL, LOOK. WE DID IT! WE SAVED HER.
HOW DID YOU...? WHAT DID YOU DO?!
LOOK HOW HAPPY THEY ARE TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN.
meehhh

THAT DEER WAS DEAD AND YOU BROUGHT IT BACK TO LIFE! YOU'RE ONE OF HERS, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ONE OF WHOSE?
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. NO ONE'S EVER SURVIVED...
THEN SUDDENLY THERE YOU ARE, WITH THE QUEEN'S TROOPS RIGHT ON YOUR HEELS. HOW DID SHE KNOW WHERE TO FIND US? TELL ME!
WILL, PLEASE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
YOU CAN DROP THE ACT, ROSE, IF THAT'S EVEN YOUR NAME. YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING AND WE'RE NOT GOING ANY FARTHER UNTIL I FIND OUT WHAT.
UH... WILL...?

WHAT'S THAT?
SHIT!

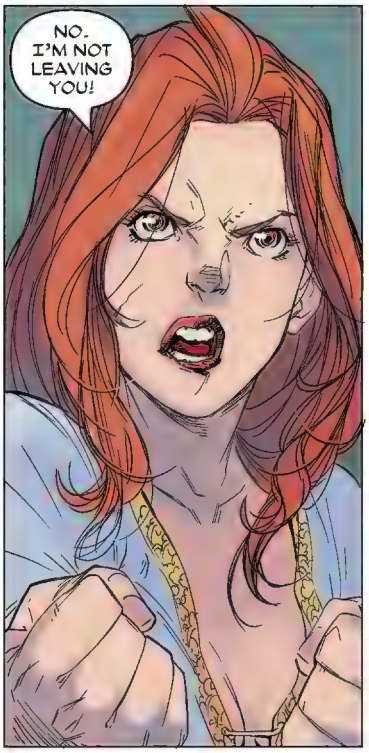
RUN, ROSE!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! RUN!
WHA... WHAT IS THAT THING?!
I DON'T KNOW AND I SURE AS HELL DON'T WANT TO FIND OUT.

UGGHHHH!
OMMMPH!
IT'S THIS STUPID SWORD. IT'S TOO HEAVY. I CAN'T KEEP UP!
I'M NOT LEAVING YOU BEHIND UNTIL I GET SOME ANSWERS.
AND YOU'RE NOT LEAVING THAT SWORD.
WILL, I SWEAR...I TOLD YOU THE TRUTH...PLEASE... I...I...JUST NEED TO REST FOR A MINUTE.
THE CAMP IS JUST AHEAD. YOU'LL MAKE IT!
WILL, WATCH OUT!
DIE, GUARDIAN.
SHOOM


YOU WERE KIND TO ME ONCE, FELIX. YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE A SWORD, HOW TO FIGHT, WHEN FATHER LAUGHED AT ME FOR WANTING TO LEARN. IN RETURN, I LET YOU LIVE. BUT MY PATIENCE HAS LIMITS AND I WILL WAIT NO LONGER.
YOU *WILL* TELL ME WHAT IT IS I WANT TO KNOW.
THE ONLY QUESTION THAT REMAINS IS HOW MUCH YOU CHOOSE TO SUFFER BEFORE YOU DO.
IT WAS MY MISTAKE NOT TO SEE YOU FOR THE SADISTIC BITCH YOU ALWAYS WERE, DRU.
BUT I'LL *DIE* BEFORE I EVER GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT.
SPTOO
AHHH, BUT DEATH IS THE ONE THING I WILL NEVER GIVE YOU. YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW, BROTHER, THAT I ALWAYS GET WHAT I WANT. I WILL FIND THORNE. AND WHEN I DO...
I WILL DESTROY HIM AND THE MAGIC OF THE GUARDIANS *FOREVER!*

AHHH!
THUNK
HE'S GAINING ON US. WE'RE NEVER GOING TO GET AWAY!
RRRIPPP

WHATEVER HAPPENS, JUST KEEP RUNNING! YOU NEED TO GET TO ILA! SHE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS CREATURE!


NO. I'M NOT LEAVING YOU!

I WASN'T GIVING YOU A CHOICE.
RUN!

STAND ASIDE OR DIE, HUMAN.
SORRY. I'M NOT GOOD WITH EITHER OF THOSE OPTIONS.
DEATH, THEN.
WIIILLL!
WHOOOOOSH
STAY BACK!
YOU ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH YET TO DEFEAT THE FALLEN, GUARDIAN.
IT WOULD GIVE ME GREAT PLEASURE TO... >SNIFF<
>SNIFF, SNIFF< THORNE!

WHAT THE...HOW DID YOU...?!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO! IT WAS GOING TO ATTACK YOU AND I JUST...
...WILL, YOU'RE HURT!
DON'T TOUCH ME! WHAT ARE YOU...
HANG ON, WILL. I'LL GET YOU TO ILA. SHE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I HOPE...

AND THEN YOU SAY A LIGHT APPEARED...AND THE CREATURE RAN AWAY?
UHHH, YEAH. SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
HMMM, THIS CHANGES THINGS.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS?
THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RUMORS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GUARDIANS AFTER THEIR KHATZ DISAPPEARED. THE QUEEN MUST HAVE FOUND A WAY TO TWIST THEIR POWER AND USE IT AGAINST THEM.
IT WOULD SEEM THEY ARE RUMORS NO LONGER. THERE IS A COUNCIL MEETING IN THREE DAYS' TIME. THEY MUST HEAR OF THIS.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THING IS A GUARDIAN?!
WAS A GUARDIAN. NOW IT IS SOMETHING DARKER AND MUCH MORE DANGEROUS.

FEL, STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR BJARKE TO RETURN. THE TWO OF YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET WILL TO MILLHAVEN WITHOUT KILLING HIM. WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU THERE.
HOW DID I...?
THAT THING USED TO BE A GUARDIAN AND I...NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
AND YOU. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.

FOR 10 YEARS, I HAVE WAITED.
BATTLES WERE FOUGHT AND LOST FOR THE FREEDOM OF OUR KINGDOM. AND I WAITED.
THOSE I LOVE HAVE DISAPPEARED. AND STILL I SAT HERE, WAITING.
ENCASED IN STONE TO HIDE MY MAGIC, I WAITED FOR MY GUARDIAN TO BE READY FOR THE BATTLE YET TO COME.
I AM DONE WAITING.

HE...
...HAS...
....RETURNED.
I'M COMING...
...FOR YOU...
...BROTHER.

I AM THORNE, THE LAST OF THE GREAT KHATZ.
IT IS TIME I FOUND MY GUARDIAN.
NEXT MONTH: A HEARTBREAKING TRUTH

NEXT MONTH

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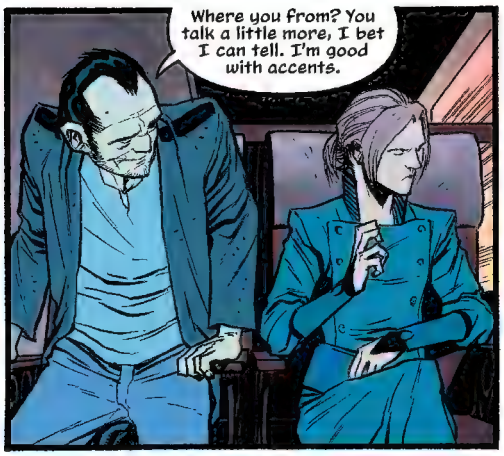
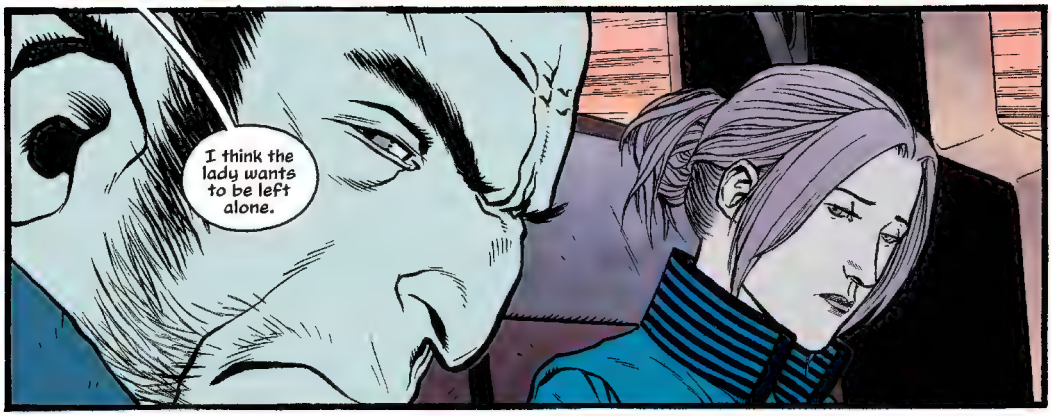
IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS A SPECIAL PREVIEW OF COPPERHEAD

Move along.
Come on now, missy. That ain't very friendly.


Where you from? You talk a little more, I bet I can tell. I'm good with accents.

What's a matter? Don't wanna play?

So it's just you and the boy, then?
I like kids.


I think the lady wants to be left alone.

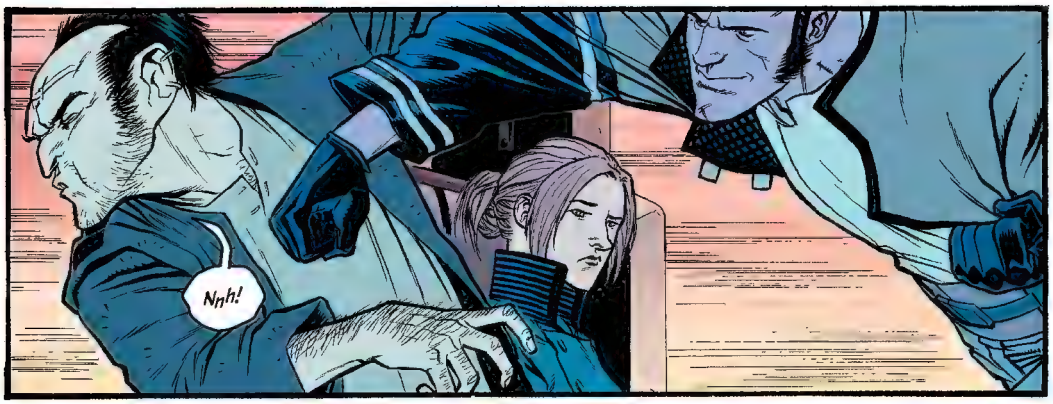
Time for you to move along, friend.
Piss off.

sigh
Sir, I appreciate what you're trying to do, but this really isn't necessary.

It's no trouble at all, ma'am.
Hey--

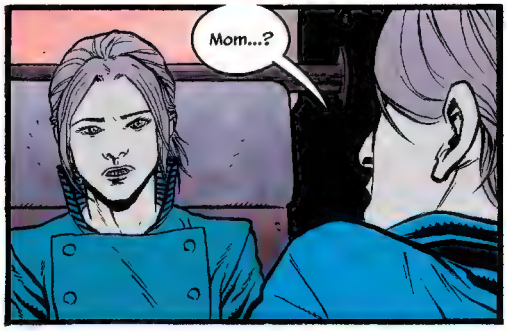
Gentlemen... my boy and I have been traveling quite a distance. As you can see, he's very tired.
I'd really prefer you not wake him.

We'll do this nice and quiet-like. Isn't that right, friend?

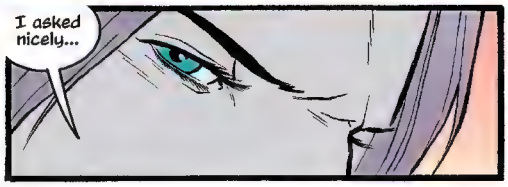

Nnh!

OOOF!

Guh--


Mom...?

It's okay, honey. Go back to sleep.
We're almost there.


I asked nicely...

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SOUTHERN BASTARDS SPAWN ORIGINS THE WICKED + THE DIVINE
MONSTRESS CHEW SPREAD
NOWHERE MEN
HOWTOONS THEY'RE NOT LIKE US SUNSTONE MANIFEST DESTINY
DESCENDER PAPER GIRLS
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Dangerous deserts, threatening bodyguards, and astral projection to faraway planets...

Boetema's journey is *just* beginning.

Leila del Duca Kit Seaton

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